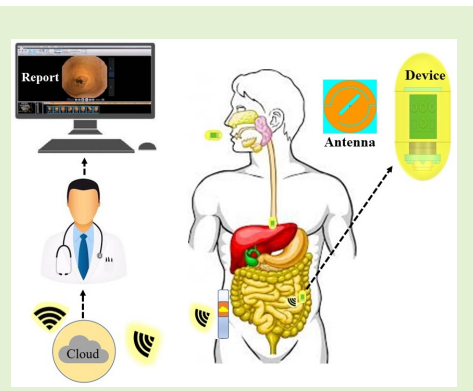


# Ultra-Miniaturized Dual-Band Implantable Antenna for Wireless Capsule Endoscopy

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**Abstract**—This study introduces a small dual-band implantable antenna designed for Wireless Capsule Endoscopy (WCE). This antenna operates in the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS) 1.4 GHz as well as the Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) 2.45 GHz bands. The designed antenna achieves miniaturization by employing open-ended slots, shorting pins, and arc-shaped slots on the radiating patch. The final structure has a compact size of  $8.2 \times 8.2 \times 0.635 \text{ mm}^3$ . Homogeneous muscle and heterogeneous human phantoms are used to analyze the antenna's behavior. The measurements are conducted by implanting the WCE device within minced pork meat. Considering the capsule's deep location, the proposed antenna achieves gain values of  $-29.4 \text{ dBi}$  at 1.4 GHz and  $-30.4 \text{ dBi}$  at 2.45 GHz, respectively. The measured impedance bandwidths are 7.2 % and 4.2 % at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz, respectively. Results suggest that the proposed antenna can reliably establish wireless communication at distances greater than 10 meters with a 10 dB margin for both frequencies. The 10-g specific absorption rate (SAR) values are 4.77 W/kg and 6.07 W/kg at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz, respectively.

**Index Terms**—Biomedical, compact implantable antenna, dual-band, wireless capsule endoscopy applications.



## I. INTRODUCTION

THE Wireless Capsule Endoscopy (WCE) represents a leading-edge diagnostic method that revolutionizes the visualization of the gastrointestinal tract [1]. Recently, this innovative technology has gained significant attention owing to its non-invasive and painless approach, presenting a highly appealing alternative to traditional wired endoscopic procedures [2], [3]. Conventional endoscopy, as the current gold standard, is characterized by its invasive and discomforting nature when used to examine the GI tract. Moreover, it has intrinsic limitations, including its inability to provide a comprehensive view of the small intestine [4]. The core structure of WCE lies in the integration of key components, as showcased in Fig. 1. Within the biocompatible shell, a WCE typically integrates an antenna, camera, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), batteries, sensors, and printed circuit board (PCB) [5], [6]. Among these components, the antenna holds a pivotal role in enabling wireless communication, serving as the communication bridge between the capsule and the external receivers. Researchers have explored various avenues

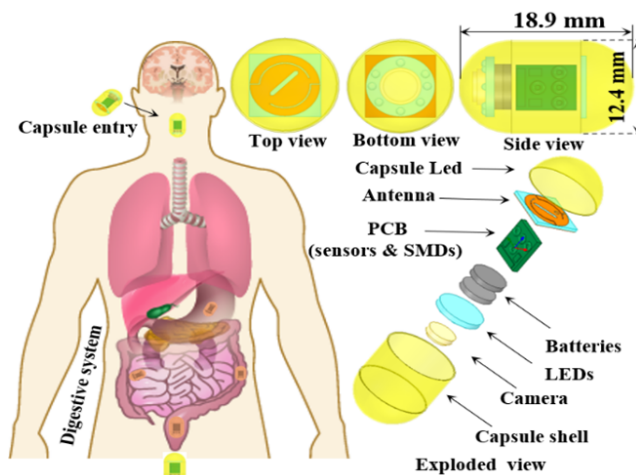


Fig. 1. An overview of the WCE scenario, including the capsule architecture

to address the complex challenges associated with the antennas for such a complex working environment within the human body. One key area of focus has been the quest for miniaturized antennas with dual-band performance, which represents a formidable engineering challenge, owing to the capsule dimensions constraints.

Dual-band antennas are of particular interest, given their ability to operate on two distinct frequency bands. This feature is important for implantable applications, including wireless capsule endoscopy, as it allows simultaneous transmission of

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data and reception on separate frequency bands. This simultaneous dual-band operation enhances communication reliability and flexibility within the human body, optimizing the overall performance of implantable devices [7], [8]. In wireless capsule endoscopy, a dual-band antenna is crucial to enable simultaneous data transmission and wireless power transfer. Designing such an antenna ensures efficient communication and sustained power supply, optimizing the functionality and longevity of the capsule within the body [9].

Several strategies are employed to achieve antenna miniaturization in the dual-band context. Techniques such as defective ground layers [10] and the utilization of elevated dielectric substrates [11] have been investigated. Achieving miniaturization presents a unique challenge as it directly affects both antenna gain and bandwidth, requiring a trade-off. In the pursuit of dual-band antennas, researchers have explored creative designs and solutions. Using a meander-line structure, a dual-band compact antenna is described in [12]. The device operates at 1.4 GHz and 2.4 GHz. However, it has a large dimension ( $10 \times 10 \times 0.635 \text{ mm}^3$ ). An implanted dual-band antenna that operates in the ISM band is described in [13]. It has a volume of  $22 \times 16 \times 1.27 \text{ mm}^3$ , however, the antenna's dimensions are not suitable for WCE applications due to its rigid and non-conformal geometry. Additionally, a dual-band implanted antenna for monitoring hyperglycemia that operates at 405 MHz and 2450 MHz has been extensively studied in [14]. Nevertheless, it's worth noting that its size is quite large, measuring  $1265.625 \text{ mm}^3$ . Notable achievements include a compact dual-band design in [15], achieved through the clever integration of slots and shorting pins. In a similar vein, meandered resonators are harnessed to reduce antenna dimensions by enhancing the current path, as documented in [16]. In [17], a dual-band antenna was developed using a combination of a pin, slotted patch, and open-ended ground layer, leading to notable miniaturization. However, these designs, while possessing dual-band capabilities, are hampered by their substantial dimensions, high SAR values, and relatively low gain, rendering them unsuitable for the stringent demands of WCE applications.

This research introduces a miniaturized dual-band antenna designed for WCE systems, enabling operation at both 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz. The suggested design has a compact geometry of  $8.2 \times 8.2 \times 0.635 = 42.69 \text{ mm}^3$ . Miniaturization and dual band are achieved by shorting pins, open-ended slots, semi-circular slots, and a middle slot on the radiator patch. Considering the deep implant location, the proposed antenna offers distinct advantages compared to other dual-band systems, particularly in size, radiation patterns, and reduced SAR.

## II. PROPOSED ANTENNA

### A. Simulation Environment

The antenna simulation using Ansys High-Frequency Simulation Software (HFSS) commenced within a cubical homogeneous phantom, measuring  $150 \times 150 \times 150 \text{ mm}^3$ . The antenna is enclosed within a WCE capsule device of 18.9 mm length and 6.2 mm radius (see Fig. 1), positioned at a

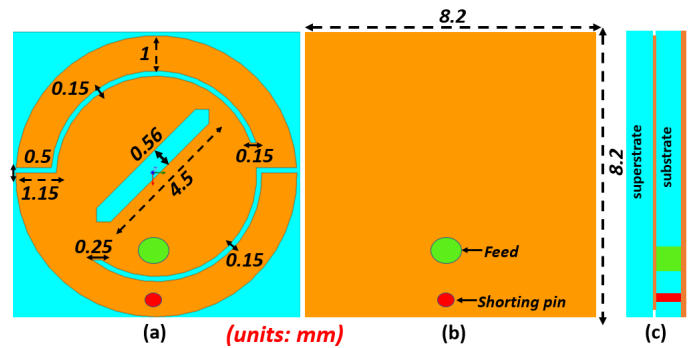


Fig. 2. Geometry of the suggested dual-band antenna: (a) top view, (b) bottom view, and (c) cross-section view.

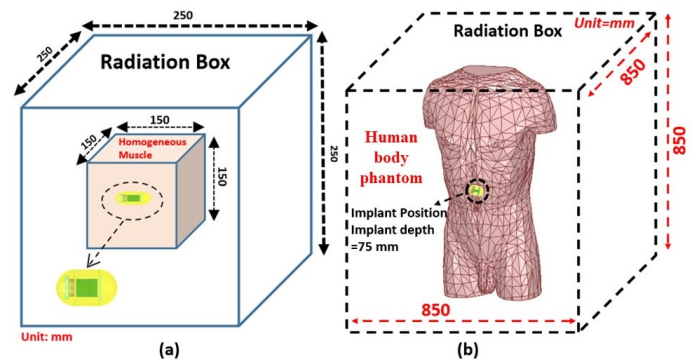


Fig. 3. Antenna simulation setups using (a) cubical homogeneous human muscle phantom and (b) realistic human torso phantom.

depth of 75 mm within the cubical phantom, as illustrated in Fig. 3(a). The phantom was configured to replicate the electrical properties of human muscle tissue at both 1.4 and 2.45 GHz. Specifically, it was set to have a relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) of 54.1 and a conductivity ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.12 S/m at 1.4 GHz, and  $\epsilon_r$  of 52.7 and  $\sigma$  of 1.73 S/m at 2.45 GHz [18]. Following the initial simulation, we progressed to a more realistic human torso phantom, a heterogeneous human model within the HFSS simulation. In this configuration, the capsule was positioned within the stomach at an implantation depth of 75 mm, as depicted in Fig. 3(b).

### B. Antenna Topology

The suggested antenna takes the form of a circular patch antenna, fed through a  $50\Omega$  coaxial probe, with the full ground plane. In order to accomplish the miniaturisation, the design includes a 0.2 mm diameter shorting pin. In addition, semi-circular slots, open-ended slots, and a middle rectangular slot are strategically inserted into the patch to achieve the dual-band characteristic while maintaining compactness. The antenna configuration is presented in Fig. 2 along with its optimized dimensions. Rogers RO3010 material is used for both the antenna's superstrate and substrate, characterized by relative permittivity  $\epsilon_r$  of 10.2 and a low loss tangent ( $\tan \delta$ ) of 0.0025, and a thickness of 0.635 mm. To ensure biocompatibility, the capsule enclosure is made of ceramic alumina  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , which has a thickness of 0.2 mm and a relative permittivity ( $\epsilon_r$ ) of 9.8.

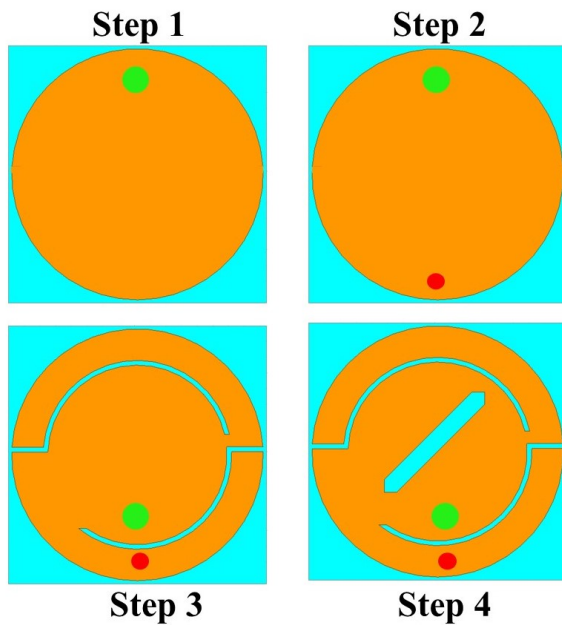


Fig. 4. Antenna design steps

### C. Design Methodology

The suggested dual-band implantable antenna is designed in four major phases, each marked by iterative improvements aimed at optimizing its performance. An overview of these design steps and the corresponding reflection coefficient ( $S_{11}$ ) comparisons can be observed in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. Throughout these steps, the fundamental patch shape undergoes modifications, while the ground layer remains unchanged. In the initial design step (Step 1), the antenna features a full circular patch, excited by a coaxial probe feed. In this configuration, the antenna resonates at a frequency close to 4.8 GHz. Moving on to Step 2, a crucial modification is introduced by placing a shorting pin within the patch and the ground plane, which is one of the most popular techniques for antenna miniaturization [19]. As a result, the antenna now operates at 1.6 GHz, a significant size reduction of 62%. In Step 3, semi-circular slots and open-ended features are integrated into the radiating patch. This modification enables the antenna to operate in dual-band frequencies, making it more versatile. Additionally, these added openings help reduce the antenna's size while maintaining its dual-band functionality. At this point, the antenna resonates at the frequencies of 1.1 GHz and 2.4 GHz. In the final design step, a rectangular slot is incorporated into the middle of the patch. These refinements serve to align the resonance frequencies with the desired bands. The suggested antenna so displays resonance at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz, effectively achieving its targeted dual-band operation.

### D. Parametric Study

Numerical investigations on the impact of some antenna design parameters on the antenna resonant behavior have been conducted and the results are provided in Figs. 6, 7, and 8.

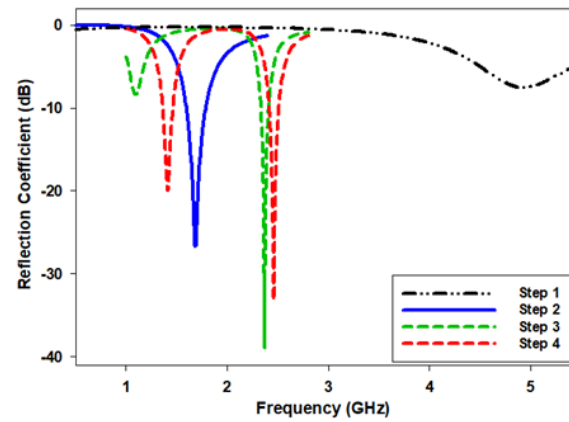


Fig. 5. The antenna reflection coefficient ( $S_{11}$ ) for design steps 1 to 4.

1) *Shorting pin location*: The impact on  $S_{11}$  of the suggested antenna owing to differences in the shorting pin position is shown in Fig. 6. The shorting-pin location was systematically varied along the  $x$  and  $y$  directions, while the feed position remained constant. As a result of field coupling between the feed and the shorting pin, when the pin is placed close to the feed, there is a significant reactance. Conversely, when the shorting pin is positioned farther from the feed, the field coupling is reduced [20]. Shorting pin positions can be varied along the  $x$ -axis to achieve the desired resonance frequency, whereas variations along the  $y$ -axis have a minimal effect.

2) *Semi-circular Slot Width*: To minimise the overall size of the antenna, semi-circular slots have been inserted into the patch. The impact on  $S_{11}$  of the suggested antenna owing to differences in the width of the semi-circular slots within the range of 0.15-0.30 mm is shown in Fig. 7. Notably, this analysis revealed a negligible shift in both frequency bands, indicating that changes in slot width have minimal effect on the resonance characteristics.

3) *Open-end slot Length*: To achieve miniaturization of the antenna size, open-ended slots are added to the radiating patch. Fig. 8 illustrates the effect of varying the length of these open-ended slots, ranging from 0.7 to 1.3 mm, on the antenna's  $S_{11}$ . Increasing this parameter from 0.7 to 1.3 mm resulted in a substantial shift in both bands' resonance frequency. Specifically, the first band experienced a significant shift from 1.21 to 1.45 GHz, while the second band exhibited a notable shift from 2.25 to 2.65 GHz. Consequently, it was determined that employing open-end slits with a length of 1.15 mm successfully produced resonant frequencies within the desired 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz bands.

### E. Current distributions and SAR results

The current distribution of the proposed antenna is depicted in Fig. 9. At 1.4 GHz, there is a noticeable concentration of current around the feeding points. Moreover, the current density is prominently observed along the path extending from the feed to the semi-circular slots located on both the upper and lower sections of the antenna. Similarly, at 2.45 GHz, the currents are primarily focused on the central region of the patch. Furthermore, the current density is higher within the

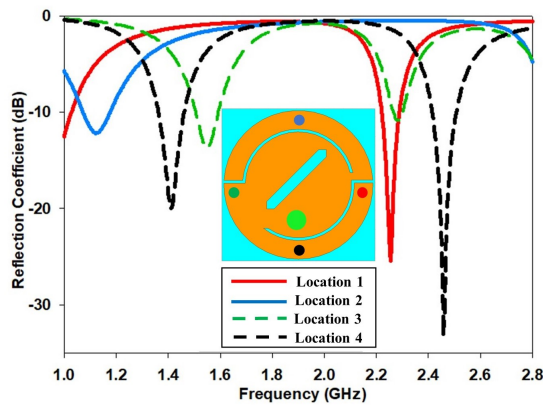


Fig. 6. Effects of the shorting pin location

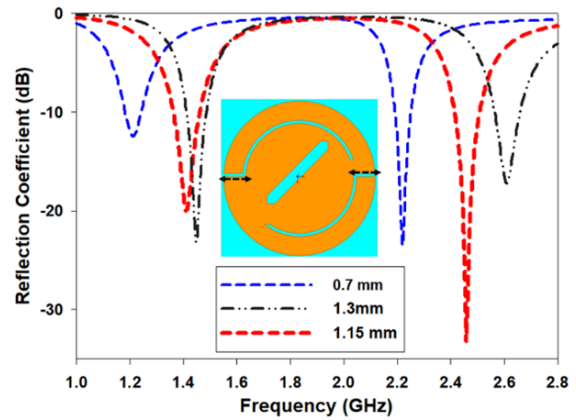


Fig. 8. Effects of the open-end slots length

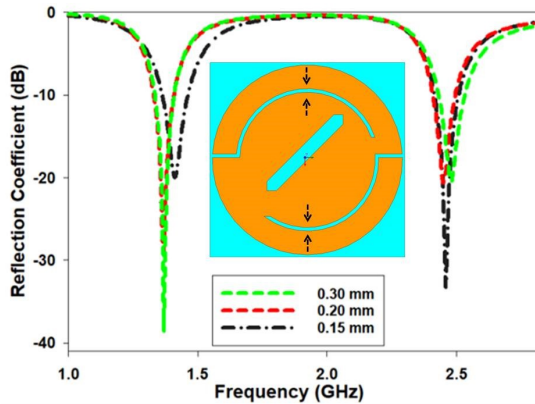


Fig. 7. Effects of the semi-circular slots widths

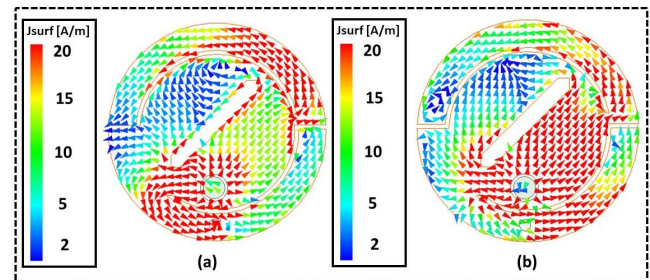


Fig. 9. Current distributions on the patch layer at (a) 1.4 and (b) 2.45 GHz.

TABLE I

CALCULATED PEAK SAR (1 W INPUT POWER) AND CORRESPONDING ALLOWABLE MAXIMUM INPUT POWERS

Frequency (MHz)	Phantom type	SAR (W/kg)		Max allowable power (mW)	
		1-g	10-g	1-g	10-g
1400	Human	84.8	4.77	18.86	419
2450	Body	123.7	6.07	12.93	329

middle slot and on the right side of the semi-circular slots on the patch. Additionally, significant current density can be observed around the feeding and shorting pin locations for both resonant frequencies.

Assessing the SAR is a crucial element in ensuring the safety of patients when utilizing an in-body WCE. In line with the updated IEEE C95.1-2019 standard, the maximum 10 g averaged SAR value is restricted to 2 W/kg [21]. To perform the SAR evaluations, the human torso phantom with the capsule implanted, as depicted in Fig. 10, is employed. It is important to note that these analyses are conducted with an input power of 1 W applied to the antenna port. Comprehensive details on the computed SAR peak values at the target frequencies are provided in Table 1, which also includes 1 g SAR values to facilitate comparisons with prior studies. The results reveal that the simulated maximum 1-g averaged SAR values are 84.8 W/kg and 123.7 W/kg at 1.4 and 2.45 GHz, respectively.

Meanwhile, the SAR values for the 10 g standard are 4.77 W/kg and 6.07 W/kg at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz, respectively. Subsequently, the corresponding maximum input power levels for both frequencies are calculated and are presented in Table 1. Notably, these values indicate significantly lower power levels than the typical power used for implants according to the ITU-R SM.2153-8 standard [22]. These findings affirm the appropriateness and safety of the proposed antenna design for operation within the human body.

### III. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

Once the desired results are achieved, the antenna is meticulously fabricated and embedded within a biocompatible capsule, as depicted in Fig. 11 (a). Dummy components, including sensors, batteries, and a PCB, are integrated into the capsule device. For measurement purposes, the capsule device is equipped with a coaxial cable passage hole, precisely matching the cable conductor's diameter. To ensure the real test environment, the measurements of the antenna ( $S_{11}$ ) and radiation performance were conducted with the capsule placed inside a container filled with minced pork meat, the size of this container is 250 x 250 x 150 mm<sup>3</sup> with depth 75mm. The  $S_{11}$  measurements were done using a vector network analyzer (VNA) (Series 8722ES). Fig. 12 compared the measured and simulated antenna ( $S_{11}$ ) at both frequency bands. Notably, the experimental results confirm the applicability of the antenna with the resonances falling within the target WMTS 1.4 GHz and ISM 2.45 GHz bands. Any observed discrepancies can be attributed to variations in the dielectric properties between

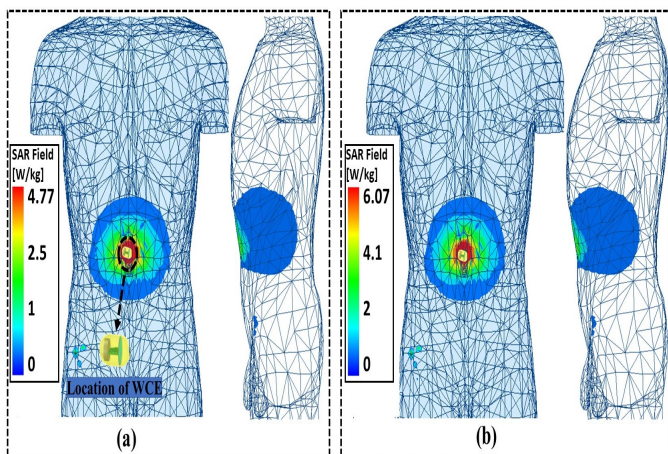


Fig. 10. Computed SAR distributions at (a) 1.4 GHz and (b) 2.45 GHz averaged over 10 g of tissues.

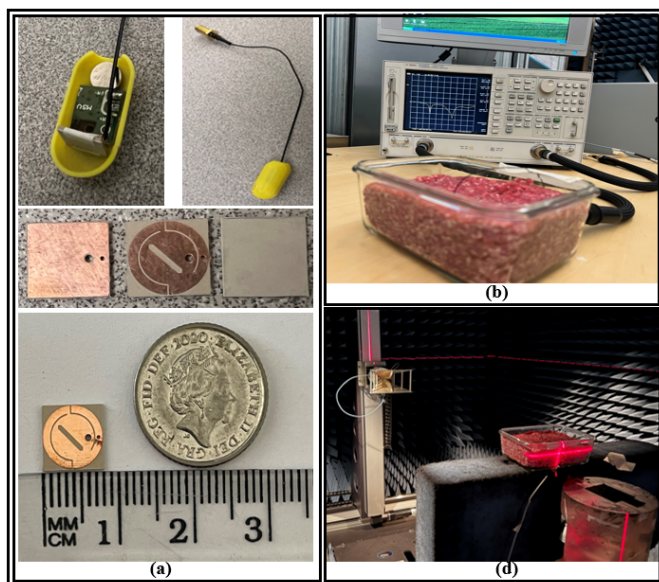


Fig. 11. (a) Fabricated antenna prototype before and after capsule assembly. Experimental setup with an antenna embedded inside minced pork: (b)  $S_{11}$  test, (c) far-field test in the anechoic chamber.

the heterogeneous tissue materials used in the simulations and experiments. Additionally, the antenna fabrication tolerances including the gap between the substrate and the superstrate may lead to antenna performance variations.

In Fig. 13, the suggested antenna's simulated and measured radiation patterns at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz are displayed. The measurements were conducted in an anechoic chamber. The experimental setup involved the antenna's placement at the center of a container filled with minced pork meat, facilitating the handling process. The antenna and the reception horn antenna were mounted at a distance of three meters. One antenna is terminated with a 50  $\Omega$  load, while the other is attached to a spectrum analyzer for the duration of the measurements. The antenna was systematically rotated with a sweeping angle of 2 degrees, while the horn antenna remained stationary. As shown in Fig. 13, the antenna demonstrates omnidirectional patterns at both frequencies. This feature holds significant

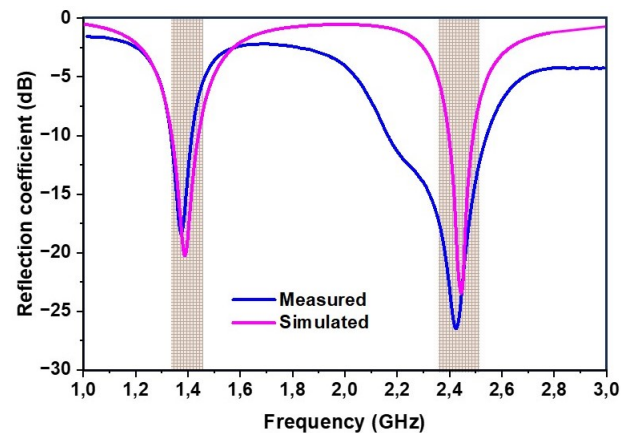


Fig. 12. Simulated and measured  $S_{11}$ .

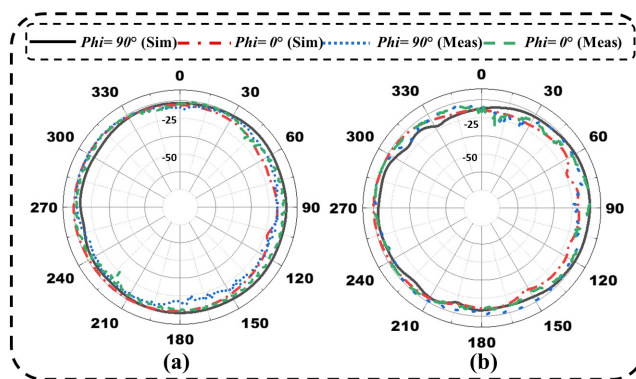


Fig. 13. Simulated and measured antenna radiation patterns at (a) 1.4 GHz and (b) 2.45 GHz.

importance to ensure comprehensive coverage and dependable communication, regardless of the changing orientation of the capsule device within the GI tract. In the simulations inside the stomach of the realistic human model, the antenna shows peak realized gains of -29.4 and -30.4 dBi at 1.4 and 2.45 GHz, respectively. The measurements inside the minced pork meat exhibit peak gain values of -27.6 and 28.7 at 1.4 and 2.45 GHz, which are almost identical to those simulated. The discrepancies in the results are associated with the factors mentioned before. To underscore the novelty and benefits of the proposed study, a comprehensive comparison is conducted with previously reported dual-band implantable antennas, as presented in Table 3. The analysis reveals several notable advantages of the suggested implantable antenna, particularly in terms of the antenna dimensions, implantation depth, and reduced SAR, setting it apart from other dual-band antenna.

#### IV. LINK BUDGET ANALYSIS

The primary role of the antenna is to facilitate the transfer of data captured by the implant to the data-gathering device. Therefore, before implementing the antenna in practical implants, it is essential to evaluate its communication capability. This can be done through a link budget (LM) analysis that takes into account the antenna free space losses, path loss exponent, antenna mismatches, cable losses, and shadowing

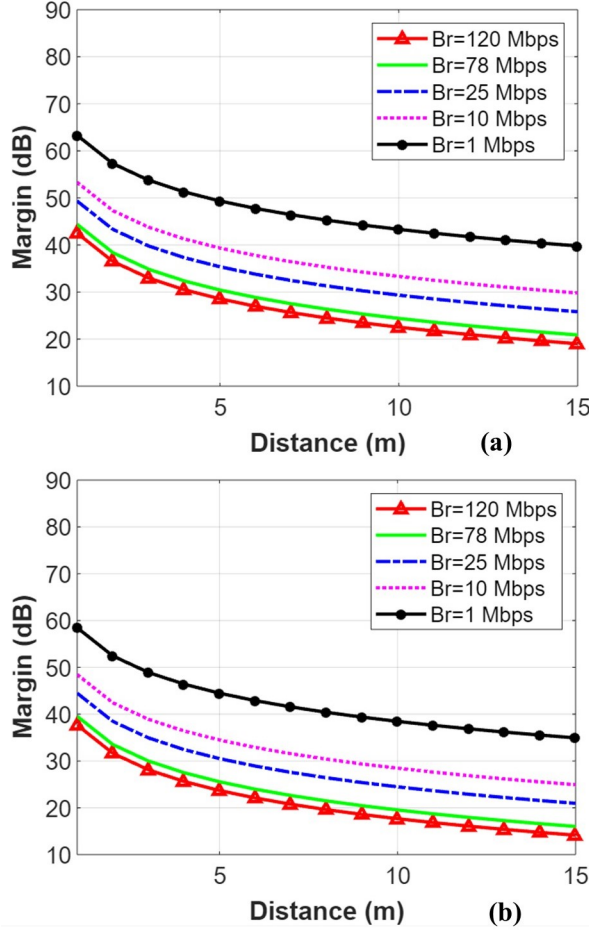


Fig. 14. LM as a function of distance ( $d$ ) at (a) 1.4 GHz and (b) 2.45 GHz.

effects [23]. To ensure reliable communication, the LM must remain above 0 dB [16]. In this study, an LM of 20 dB is considered to ensure seamless communication. Theoretical evaluation of the antenna's communication capabilities was conducted using the Friis equations as provided in [2]. In this analysis, the suggested antenna is considered as a transmitting antenna, and the dipole antenna serves as the receiving antenna. To record the data, The receiving and transmitting antennas have a varying distance between them. The implantable antenna kept a transmitted input power of -16 dBm. (25  $\mu$ W). The antenna's required power ( $R_r$ ) is calculated as

$$R_r(dB) = \frac{E_b}{N_0} + KT_0 + R_r \quad (1)$$

In this context,  $R_r$  represents the minimum needed power (dB),  $T$  is the temperature (293K),  $E_b/N$  represents denotes the PSK modulation value at 9.6 dB,  $K$  represents the Boltzmann constant ( $1.38e^{-23}$ ), and  $B_r$  represents the bit rate [24]. Furthermore, the antenna's available power ( $R_a$ ) is calculated as

$$R_a(dB) = (P_t + G_t + G_r - PL - L_p) \quad (2)$$

TABLE II  
LINK BUDGET PARAMETERS

Specification	Variable	Value
Resonant frequency (GHz)	$f$	1.4/2.45
Transmitter Power (dBm)	$P_a$	-16
Path loss exponent	$\gamma$	1.5
Temperature (Kelvin)	$T$	273
Transmitter antenna gain (dBi)	$G_a$	Tissue dependent
Receiving antenna gain (dBi)	$G_b$	2
Free space loss (dB)	$L$	Distance dependent
Available power (dB)	$A_p$	Distance dependent
Required power (dB)	$R_p$	Adaptive (Bit rate)
Margin (dB)	$A_p - R_p$	Fig.15

In this context,  $R_a$  represents the available power,  $P_t$  represents the transmitter power of the dual-band antenna,  $G_t$  represents the gain of the transmitter antenna,  $G_r$  represents the gain of the receiver antenna,  $PL$  represents the polarization loss factor, and  $L_p$  represents the path loss between the transmitter antenna and receiver antenna. The latter can be calculated as

$$L_p(dB) = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{4\pi d}{\lambda} \right) + 10\gamma \log_{10} \left( \frac{d}{d_0} \right) + S_e \quad (3)$$

where  $d$  is the distance between transmitter and receiver antennas,  $\gamma$  represents the path loss exponent and  $S_e$  accounts for the effect of shadowing with the standard deviation of  $\sigma$ . All required parameters for (LM) analysis are provided in Table 2. Five distinct bit rates (1, 10, 25, 78, and 120 Mbps) were considered in the link budget calculation at operating frequencies of 1.4 and 2.45 GHz. The corresponding transmission ranges for these data rates are depicted in Fig. 14. The findings indicate that the suggested antenna can consistently transmit data over distances exceeding 10 meters while maintaining a 15 dB margin for both frequencies. With an LM of 15 dB, the antenna can transmit data over distances exceeding 15 meters at a rate of 120 Mbps for both frequencies. These findings affirm the suitability of the suggested antenna for biotelemetry applications.

## V. CONCLUSION

This article illustrates the design of a compact dual-band antenna system intended for the WCE system. Through a range of design features, the system aims to achieve miniaturization while also providing dual-band capabilities. These features include a shorting pin, open-ended slots, semi-circular slots, and a middle slot on the radiator patch. This antenna design has a compact size of 42.69 mm<sup>3</sup>. This device operates in the WMTS 1.4 GHz as well as the ISM 2.4 GHz bands, which were successfully achieved based on the evaluation

TABLE III  
COMPARISON WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART DUAL-BAND IMPLANTABLE ANTENNAS

Ref	Size ( $\lambda g^3$ )	Size ( $mm^3$ )	Frequency (MHz)	implantation depth (mm)	Peak gain (dBi)	SAR (W/kg)	
						1-g	10-g
[25]	0.0059	15 × 15 × 15	2450 5800	30	-18.5	1101.7 1135.8	276 284
[26]	0.00203	16 × 16 × 2.4	1400 2450	2	-13.25 -11.3	— —	— —
[27]	0.0021	9.8 × 9.8 × 1.27	2450	3	33	486	90
[28]	0.00034	$\pi \times (5.1)^2 \times 1.27$	1400 2450	3	-32 -31.6	702 781	88.5 88.8
[29]	0.00153	8.5 × 8.5 × 1.27	2400 4800	42	-26 -8.8	207 137.1	24.1 28.8
[30]	0.00066	$\pi \times (4.8)^2 \times 0.13$	1400 2450	3	-24.5 -20.6	294 409	61.9 83.2
[31]	0.0022	10 × 10 × 1.27	2450	4	-27.2	—	—
[32]	0.00047	10 × 10 × 0.635	1400 2400	4	-37 -21	215 565	38.75 694.7
[33]	0.00053	11 × 11 × 1.28	1400 2400	3	-25.7 -39.9	— —	— —
<b>This Work</b>	<b>0.00014</b>	<b>8.2 × 8.2 × 0.635</b>	<b>1400</b> <b>2450</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-29.4</b> <b>-30.4</b>	<b>84.8</b> <b>123.7</b>	<b>6.07</b> <b>4.77</b>

of simulation and measurement results using both a human body phantom and minced pork. Additionally, the capsule device with a radius of 6.2 mm and length of 18.9 mm was designed to assess the antenna performance in a real device-like environment. Considering the capsule's deep location, the proposed antenna achieves gain values of -29.4 dBi at 1.4 GHz and -30.4 dBi at 2.45 GHz, respectively. Furthermore, the safety of the antenna was evaluated by IEEE SAR regulations. The 10-g SAR values are 4.77 W/kg and 6.07 W/kg at 1.4 GHz and 2.45 GHz. This antenna design exhibits promising potential as a suitable choice for implantable medical devices in capsule endoscopy applications.

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